

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121878
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EA:KMQUINN

APPROVED BY :EA:KMQUINN

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O 261911Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121878

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 8037 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 25.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: HERRERA CASE

REF: MANILA 7782

1. ON MAY 24, LT. EDUARDO MATILLANO WAIVED PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION SO HIS CASE PROCEEDS IMMEDIATELY TO COURT MARTIAL PHASE. AT SAME HEARING, MRS. HERRERA'S COUNSEL, SENATOR RODRIGO, ASKED AFP TO EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION OF FOUR MORE MILITARY PERSONNEL ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TORTURE. SECOND LINEUP TOOK PLACE MAY 21 AT WHICH TIME MRS. HERRERA IDENTIFIED LT. PRUDENCIO REGIS AND CONSTABLE PATERNO ORDONO WHOM SHE HAD EARLIER SEEN AT HER ARRAINGNMENT ON MARCH 28 (PARA 2, REFTEL).

2. RODRIGO TOLD THE COURT THAT HE WOULD PRODUCE WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT MRS. HERRERA'S CHARGES THAT SHE
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HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND CIGARETTE BURNS.

3. MAY 24 HEARING WAS GIVEN FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN PRESS AND ON TELEVISION MAY 24 AND 25. DAILY EXPRESS OF MAY 25 CARRIED PICTURES OF MRS. HERRERA AND LT. MATILLANO UNDER ITEM HEADLINED, "EX-DETAINEE IMPLICATES FOUR MORE PC MEN IN TORTURE RAP."

4. SENATOR RODRIGO TOLD EMBOFF MAY 25 THAT MRS. HERRERA HAD BEEN IN A HEARING ALL MORNING. HE SAID PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS THAT MILITARY HAVE YET TO PRODUCE SOLDIER WHO ACTUALLY ASSISTED MATILLANO IN TORTURE. HE WAS NOT IN MAY 21 LINEUP. RODRIGO ALSO SAID THAT MRS. HERRA HAS BEEN CHARGED IN CIVIL COURT (COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE) ON COUNTS OF USING ALIAS AND FALSIFYING PUBLIC DOCUMENT (HER RESIDENCE PERMIT). RODRIGO HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING BAIL FOR MRS. HERRERA ON THESE CHARGES AND HOPES ARRAINGMENT IN CIVIL COURT CAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER MILITARY TRIBUNAL CASE COMPLETED. RODRIGO PROMISED TO STAY IN TOUCH ON DEVELOPMENTS.

5. COMMENT: IT S HARD TO BELIEVE GOP CANNOT COME UP WITH NAME AND PERSON OF INDIVIDUAL WHO ALLEGEDLY ASSISTED MATILLANO. RESPONSIBLE MILITARY HIGHER UPS (WHO DISAPPROVE OF COURT MARTIAL OF MATILLANO) MAY BE SEEKING TO STONEWALL AND SANDBAG. STULL UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE121878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA:KMQUINN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770188-0986
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770513/aaaaalcf.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 215a3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 MANILA 7782
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2352329
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HERRERA CASE
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP, (MATILLANO, EDUARDO), (HERRERA, TRINIDAD)
To: KUALA LUMPUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/215a3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009